in this connection, which will be examined by a Screening Committee constituted for the purpose. Location of the University will be known after proposals have been examined.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise

Statement

The salient features of the proposed NRI University

- The University will be set up by Overseas Indian Trusts or Societies with credibility and experience in the field of education under the overall supervision of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and will have the status of "Deemed University" *de novo* under Section 3 of the UGC Act.
- 50% seats will be earmarked for PIO/NRI students and 50% for resident Indian students. The existing government policy on reservation will apply for the 50% reserved seats for resident Indian students.
- Full autonomy will be granted to the NRI/PIO University in curriculum design, appointment/selection of personnel, faculty, admission procedure, etc. The University will also enjoy full autonomy in financial matters and fees for NRI/PIO students, intake of PIO/NRI students, etc.
- The proposed NRI/PIO University will conform to the standards set by the regulatory bodies like UGC, AICTE, MCI, etc. as a minimum benchmark. However, the institution has the option to benchmark itself to the best international standards.
- The University will adhere to the norms and procedures of Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Indian Nursing Council and Pharmacy Council of India for setting up of Medical College/Dental College/Pharmacy College/Nursing College under their respective Acts and Regulations.

District Planning Committees

2544. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the provisions of the Constitution, the District Planning Committees are to be set up in every State except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Committees in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh have been constituted;

(c) whether any measures are being taken to make them sensitive and procative to local needs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that in terms of Andhra Pradesh District Planning Committees Act, 2005 and rules thereunder, District Planning Committees have been constituted in all districts of the State, except Ranga Reddy. The State has reported that the detailed guidelines on functions and meeting procedures of District Planning Committees, the strategy for preparing draft district plans, and guidelines for the collection and maintenance of the data base are under issue.

Assistance under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

2545. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a new scheme to provide assistance/ grants to backward, snowbound and hilly districts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh on the lines of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and allocation of funds to these States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) covers 250 districts in 27 States. Chamoli, Champawat and Tehri Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand and Chamba and Sirinaur districts of Himachal Pradesh are included among these districts. The districts have been selected on the basis of certain parameters designed to assess backwardness. The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), covering 147 districts, has been subsumed into this Programme. The BRGF is designed to redress regional imbalances. In contradistinction to RSVY, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been designated as the planning and implementing authorities under BRGF and district planning in conformity with the Constitutional provisions has been made the *sine qua non* of the BRGF.

Allocation under the district component of BRGF consist of two funding windows (a) funds for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions and (b) untied developmental grants. Districts covered under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are required to complete their allocation of Rs.45 crore per district under the earlier programme before these shift to the BRGF mode of funding. Chamba and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh have received their total allocations under RSVY, however, all three districts of Uttarakhand are yet to claim two installments of Rs. 7.5 crore each under RSVY.

Uttarakhand is entitled to Rs.3 Crore per year and Himachal Pradesh is entitled to Rs.2 crore per year under the capacity-building component of BRGF. The entitlements of different districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, under the component 'untied developmental grant' for the year 2007-08 are at Statement-I (*See* below). The status of funds so far released to the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under BRGF in 2006-07 and 2007-08 may be seen at Statement-II.